

# Analysis of a potential “solar radiation dose–dimethylsulfide–cloud condensation nuclei” link from globally mapped seasonal correlations

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[1] The CLAW postulate states that an increase in solar irradiance or in the heat flux to the ocean can trigger a biogeochemical response to counteract the associated increase in temperature and available sunlight. This natural (negative) feedback mechanism would be based on a multistep response: first, an increase in seawater dimethylsulfide concentrations ( $\text{DMS}_w$ ) and therefore its fluxes to the atmosphere ( $\text{DMS}_{flux}$ ); second, an increase in the atmospheric cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) burden as a consequence of DMS oxidation to form biogenic CCN ( $\text{CCN}_{bio}$ ); and third, an increase in cloud albedo due to higher CCN numbers. Monthly global climatological fields of the solar radiation dose in the upper mixed layer (SRD), surface oceanic  $\text{DMS}_w$ , model outputs of hydroxyl radical concentrations (OH), and satellite-derived CCN numbers ( $\text{CCN}_s$ ) are analyzed in order to evaluate the proposed “solar radiation dose-DMS-CCN” link from a global point of view. OH is included as the main atmospheric oxidant of the estimated  $\text{DMS}_{flux}$  to produce  $\text{CCN}_{bio}$ . Global maps of seasonal correlations between the variables show that the solar radiation dose is highly (positively) correlated with seawater dimethylsulfide over most of the global ocean and that atmospheric DMS oxidation is highly (positively) correlated with  $\text{CCN}_s$  over large regions. These couplings are stronger at high latitudes, whereas the regions with negative or no correlation are located at low latitudes around the equator. However,  $\text{CCN}_{bio}$  estimates for 15 regions of the global ocean show that DMS oxidation can be an important contributor to the  $\text{CCN}_s$  burden only over pollution-free regions, while it would have a minor contribution over regions with high loads of continental aerosols. Globally, the mean annual contribution of  $\text{CCN}_{bio}$  to total  $\text{CCN}_s$  is estimated to be  $\approx 30\%$ . Our results support that an oceanic biogenic mechanism that modulates cloud formation and albedo can indeed occur, although its impact seems rather weak over regions under a strong influence of continental aerosols. Nevertheless, our approach does not fully rule out that the observed correlations are due to an independent seasonal variation of the studied variables; seasonal couplings are necessary but not sufficient conditions to prove the CLAW hypothesis.

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## 1. Introduction

[2] One of the most important questions regarding Earth system functioning is if the biota in the global ocean respond to climate variations in ways that in turn impact climate conditions, thereby setting natural modulating mechanisms [e.g., Charlson *et al.*, 1987; Miller *et al.*,

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2003; Sarmiento *et al.*, 2004]. Despite much research effort having been invested, this issue is still not fully resolved. Many mechanisms have been proposed and among them the hypothesis that the marine biota could act to modulate climate through the emission of volatile sulfur and its impact on aerosols and cloud albedo [Charlson *et al.*, 1987] has received considerable attention. The oceans are the largest source of natural sulfur emissions to the atmosphere in the form of biogenic dimethylsulfide (DMS) [Simó, 2001]. Seawater DMS ( $\text{DMS}_w$ ) follows a complex cycle where several types of organisms and chemical reactions are involved. Phytoplankton produce intracellular dimethylsulfoniopropionate (DMSP), the biochemical precursor of DMS, through enzymatic cleavage with involvement of the whole planktonic food web [Simó, 2001]. Recent works have pointed out that, although the  $\text{DMS}_w$  dynamics result from a web of biological and biogeochemical processes, they are driven mainly by physical variables [Simó and Dachs, 2002; Toole and Siegel, 2004; Vallina and Simó, 2007]. For example, from a global point of view, the depth of the upper mixed layer (UML) is the only variable needed to efficiently estimate  $\text{DMS}_w$  surface fields over  $\approx 85\%$  of the ocean's surface [Simó and Dachs, 2002]. Also, in the Sargasso Sea the amount of UV radiation received in the UML explains almost 80% of the  $\text{DMS}_w$  seasonal variability [Toole and Siegel, 2004].

[3] DMS is emitted to the atmosphere with a ventilation rate that depends on  $\text{DMS}_w$  concentration as well as on seawater temperature and wind speed [Nightingale *et al.*, 2000]. Once in the atmosphere DMS ( $\text{DMS}_a$ ) undergoes a sequence of oxidative reactions through interaction mainly with the hydroxyl radical (OH) [Savoie *et al.*, 1989; Chin *et al.*, 2000; Barrie *et al.*, 2001; Kloster *et al.*, 2006], giving rise to a range of products. Among them, non-sea-salt sulfate ( $\text{nss-SO}_4$ ) and, to a lesser extent, methanesulfonate (MSA) are of particular interest because of their potential to form cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) [Cox, 1997]. MSA and  $\text{nss-SO}_4$  particles are highly hygroscopic and usually occur in the submicron size fraction [Ayers *et al.*, 1997; Andreae *et al.*, 1999; Jourdain and Legrand, 2001]. On these grounds, DMS emissions are thought to be the main source of CCN in the marine troposphere remote from land [Liss *et al.*, 1997].

[4] CCN are believed to have a prominent role in the Earth energetic balance through both the direct scatter of solar incident radiation as well as their influence on cloud albedo and lifetime [Twomey, 1974; Albrecht, 1989; Kaufman *et al.*, 2002]. The CLAW hypothesis [Charlson *et al.*, 1987] proposed that an increase in solar irradiance and/or Earth temperature could be at the origin of an increase of  $\text{DMS}_w$  and its fluxes to the atmosphere. This would imply an increase in  $\text{nss-SO}_4$  and, therefore, in the atmospheric CCN burden, which in turn would increase cloud albedo (Twomey or first indirect effect) and lifetime (Albrecht or second indirect effect) then reducing the solar incident radiation and thus Earth temperature. However, recent global analyses suggest that sea surface temperature is not the driving mechanism of DMS dynamics but rather the solar radiation dose [Vallina and Simó, 2007]. If it can be shown that the main mechanisms and forces proposed to

conform the CLAW hypothesis (DMS emission, DMS oxidation efficiency, CCN formation, solar radiation) vary seasonally, should they be in phase the hypothetical feedback would be more feasible and more efficient. If no seasonal couplings were observed between some or all of these key factors, then the feedback would be hardly observable and even hardly feasible. This is because DMS, unlike  $\text{CO}_2$ , is a short-lived gas that does not accumulate in the atmosphere. That is, seasonal couplings are a “necessary but not sufficient” condition for the CLAW hypothesis [Bates *et al.*, 1987]. However, in present Earth conditions, the dominant sources of  $\text{nss-SO}_4$  on a global scale are anthropogenic [Lefohn *et al.*, 1999; Smith *et al.*, 2001]. Also, sea salt (SS) is a dominant contributor to total aerosol mass over much of the oceans [Heintzenberg *et al.*, 2000]. Both anthropogenic  $\text{SO}_4$  and the small fraction of SS can be effective CCN precursors [Van Dingenen *et al.*, 1995; Murphy *et al.*, 1998; Andreae *et al.*, 2003]. Other potential sources of CCN are products from biomass burning [Ross *et al.*, 2003] and maybe small dust particles [Arimoto, 2001], both very abundant in large regions of the globe [Ginoux *et al.*, 2001]. Therefore, if a solar irradiance-DMS-CCN link exists, it should be more easily observable in oceanic regions where continental sources contribute little to aerosol seasonality.

[5] Coincidence between the seasonalities of the solar radiation dose and  $\text{DMS}_w$  has been observed at a subtropical oligotrophic ocean site [Toole and Siegel, 2004] as well as at a coastal site in the NW Mediterranean Sea [Vallina and Simó, 2007], a feature that can be partly explained through an antioxidant function for the DMSP/DMS system in phytoplankton cells [Sunda *et al.*, 2002]. Also, several authors have found seasonal couplings between DMS and CCN both at local and regional scales, mainly in unpolluted regions [Andreae *et al.*, 1999; Ayers *et al.*, 1997]. However, because of the geographic sparseness of sampling stations, there is a lack of studies addressing the issue from a global point of view. Optical sensors on satellites (e.g., MODIS) offer the possibility of making quasisynoptic measurements of atmospheric variables at a global scale, which allows the investigation of couplings between the marine biogenic sulfur emissions and the atmospheric aerosols at spatial-temporal scales relevant for potential climate regulation. As far as we know, the only previous work based on global satellite data to investigate the coupling between ocean microbiota and atmospheric aerosols is that of Cropp *et al.* [2005]. Both the CLAW hypothesis as well as the Iron hypothesis [Martin *et al.*, 1994] were invoked to explain the observed positive correlations. They considered the Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD) as a surrogate of both dust particles and/or  $\text{nss-SO}_4$  particles from DMS oxidation. Dust carries iron that, through deposition, has the potential to fertilize large regions of the oceans where productivity is limited by the supply of this micronutrient. Iron fertilization could in turn impact DMS production and therefore atmospheric  $\text{nss-SO}_4$  formation. This combined approach hampered the assessment of the influence of DMS alone on aerosols [Cropp *et al.*, 2005]. The present work is based on a similar methodology to look at seasonal couplings but we fully focus on two of the central postulates of the CLAW

hypothesis: first, if an increase (decrease) in solar irradiance could produce an increase (decrease) of  $DMS_w$  over the global ocean; and second, if any increase (decrease) of  $DMS_w$  can be linked to a CCN increase (decrease). We also evaluate the couplings between DMS and the fine mode aerosols since  $nss-SO_4$  mainly belongs to this size fraction. Finally, the contribution of estimated biogenic CCN ( $CCN_{bio}$ ) to total CCN numbers is evaluated region by region of the globe.

## 2. Data and Methodology

[6] Since we are interested in seasonal couplings, we base all the analyses on global monthly mean climatological data for the selected variables, with a  $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$  spatial resolution.

### 2.1. Solar Radiation Dose and DMS Data

[7] Monthly global maps of daily averaged solar radiation dose in the UML (or SRD;  $W m^{-2}$ ) are estimated assuming an exponential decay of the daily averaged surface solar irradiance ( $I_0$ ) with depth ( $z$ ),

$$SRD = I_{uml} = \frac{1}{MLD} \int_0^{MLD} I_0 * \exp(-k * z) dz. \quad (1)$$

$I_0$  is assumed to be 50% of the daily averaged solar irradiance at the top of the atmosphere ( $I_{toa}$ ;  $W m^{-2}$ ) [Kiehl and Trenberth, 1997], which is calculated following Brock [1981]. The depths of the UML (MLD) are based on the work of de Boyer-Montégut et al. [2004]. This is the latest and most complete climatology of global MLD, based on more than 4,000,000 temperature profiles (from 1941 to 2002). We have made use of this climatology with a modification of the definition criterion: the depth of the mixed layer is calculated as the depth at which temperature departs  $0.1^\circ C$  from that at 5 m. We assume a general solar-radiation extinction coefficient ( $k$ ) of  $0.06 m^{-1}$ , which is a reasonable approximation for spectrum-centered wavelengths in open ocean waters [Smith and Baker, 1979; Kieber et al., 1996; Lee et al., 2005].

[8] The  $DMS_w$  global monthly fields are those of Kettle and Andreae [2000], which are based on the Global Surface Seawater DMS database, the biggest and most comprehensive compilation of  $DMS_w$  measurements available at that time (about 20,000 data points). This database was used to construct a global climatology of monthly means based on interpolation/extrapolation procedure to fill the large areas/seasons where no data were available [Kettle and Andreae, 2000]. DMS emissions to the atmosphere ( $DMS_{flux}$ ) are calculated as a function of surface wind speed and sea water temperature (SST) using the gas transfer model of Nightingale et al. [2000]. Surface wind speed and SST data were obtained from the NOAA-CIRES Climate Diagnostics Center. Wind speed are model outputs, from the NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis project, constrained by contemporary data obtained from the SSM/I sensor (DMSP, NOAA) [Kistler et al., 2001]. SST is a climatology (1971–2000) based on field and satellite measurements [Reynolds and Smith, 1995].

### 2.2. Atmospheric Data

[9] The MODerate resolution Imaging Spectro-radiometer (MODIS), on board the Earth Observing System (EOS), currently has two detectors in orbit (on the satellites Terra and Aqua). Both have daily global coverage with a morning and afternoon pass respectively. In this study, we use data measured by MODIS-Terra. MODIS aerosol data ( $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$  resolution) are available from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) Distributed Active Archive Centers (DAAC). MODIS acquires data globally at 36 spectral bands (from 0.4 to  $14.5 \mu m$ ) and it is the first satellite capable of distinguishing coarse and fine aerosols, especially over the ocean [Ichoku et al., 2004]. Several primary aerosol parameters are retrieved from MODIS daytime data over the ocean, including the fine mode fraction or ETA ( $\eta$ ) parameter [Remer et al., 2005]. Ranging from 0 to 1, ETA is defined as the ratio of the AOD contributed by the small mode particles (or accumulation mode) to the total AOD ( $AOD_{small}/AOD_{total}$ ) and can thus be viewed as a measure of the percentage of fine particles that contribute to the total aerosol burden. SS and dust are mainly composed of coarse particles while  $nss-SO_4$  belongs to the accumulation mode [Fitzgerald, 1991; Andreae et al., 1999; Jourdain and Legrand, 2001]. If DMS contributes significantly to the aerosol burden, the ETA parameter should be higher in regions and seasons with higher DMS oxidation. On the other hand, regions dominated by SS or dust inputs should display low ETA values.

[10] From the primary parameters retrieved by MODIS, it is possible to derive secondary products such as column-integrated CCN numbers (in units of  $partic cm^{-2}$ ) [Tanré et al., 1999; Gassó and Hegg, 2003]. In the present work, CCN concentrations are obtained with the derivation method described by Gassó and Hegg [2003]. The method, which is based on atmospheric optical properties, derives the maximum number of particles in the accumulation mode and provides an upper end estimate of the concentration of particles that may act as CCN at  $\approx 0.2\%$  supersaturation. We call this satellite-based CCN estimates as  $CCN_s$ . The method allows for the adjustment of coefficients according to the type of aerosols that are present. Because we are interested in marine aerosols, the  $CCN_s$  algorithm coefficients (the aerosol refraction index and the aerosol density) were adjusted to be representative of the main aerosol types present in marine regions: SS,  $nss-SO_4$  and MSA.

[11] Global OH concentrations in the marine boundary layer (MBL) are outputs of the GEOS-CHEM model run by the Atmospheric Chemistry Modeling Group at Harvard University [Fiore et al., 2003]. GEOS-CHEM simulates atmospheric composition using assimilated meteorological observations from the Goddard Earth Observing System (GEOS) of the NASA Global Modeling and Assimilation Office. Monthly OH distributions are available only for 2001.

[12] Atmospheric MSA monthly climatologies for several locations all around the globe were obtained from the measurements of the University of Miami network of aerosol sampling stations (12 locations) [Chin et al., 2000], the Australian Baseline Air Pollution Station [Ayers and Gillett, 2000] (Cape Grim), as well as the measurements of Sciare et



*al.* [1998] (Amsterdam Island) and *Kubilay et al.* [2002] (Crete). All data correspond to aerosol-associated MSA except for Amsterdam Island, where only MSA concentrations in rainwater (for 1996) are available.

### 2.3. DMS Oxidation

[13] OH is the main oxidant of  $\text{DMS}_a$  to produce MSA and  $\text{nss-SO}_4$  through a series of reactions that occur during daytime [Kloster *et al.* 2006]. Therefore the amount of potential biogenic CCN depends not only on the  $\text{DMS}_{flux}$  but also on OH concentrations. Higher amount of OH respect to the amount of  $\text{DMS}_{flux}$  would imply a higher DMS oxidation efficiency [Gondwe *et al.*, 2004]. The resulting potential biogenic CCN can be characterized as follows:

$$\text{CCN}_{bio} = b * \gamma * \text{DMS}_{flux}, \quad (2)$$

where  $b$  is a unit conversion constant and  $\gamma$  is a dimensionless parameter varying between 0 and 1 that gives the efficiency of DMS oxidation as function of the ratio between OH and  $\text{DMS}_{flux}$  following an equation of the form

$$\gamma = \frac{x}{k_s + x}, \quad (3)$$

where  $x = \frac{\text{OH}}{\text{DMS}_{flux}}$ . In the absence of OH (or very low OH) concentrations respect to the  $\text{DMS}_{flux}$ , most (or at least part) of the  $\text{DMS}_{flux}$  cannot be converted to  $\text{CCN}_{bio}$  (in this situations  $\gamma$  will be low). On the other hand, if OH concentrations are in excess all the  $\text{DMS}_{flux}$  can be oxidized to  $\text{CCN}_{bio}$  (in this situations  $\gamma$  will be close to one). The form of the equation accounts for an asymptotic behavior; as the availability of OH for DMS oxidation (the variable  $x$ ) increases, a higher fraction of the  $\text{DMS}_{flux}$  can be converted to  $\text{CCN}_{bio}$  approaching asymptotically the upper limit of gamma (for which all  $\text{DMS}_{flux}$  is converted to  $\text{CCN}_{bio}$ ). Therefore  $\gamma \text{DMS}_{flux}$  gives the amount of biogenic sulfur potentially available for CCN production. The constant ( $k_s$ ) corresponds to the value of  $x$  that gives a  $\gamma$  of 0.5 (a DMS oxidation efficiency of 50%). Assuming an annual-averaged DMS oxidation efficiency for the Southern Ocean (SO, defined as the area comprised between 40°S and 60°S) of 50% [Shon *et al.*, 2001], we obtained a value of  $k_s$  from the annual averages of OH,  $\text{DMS}_{flux}$  over the SO. In order to evaluate the potentiality of DMS oxidation as a source of biogenic aerosols, we will compare the seasonal evolution of the estimated atmospheric DMS oxidation ( $\gamma \text{DMS}_{flux}$ ) against the seasonality of MSA (an exclusive product of DMS oxidation) in aerosols from 15 sampling stations of the world cited above. The monthly  $\gamma \text{DMS}_{flux}$  series that are compared with station-based MSA series come from averaging the 49 points taken by placing a  $7^\circ \times 7^\circ$  window upwind of each station.

### 2.4. Globally Mapped Seasonal Correlations

[14] Three years of surface wind speed,  $\text{CCN}_s$  and ETA monthly means (from January 2002 to December 2004) were combined to create a 1-year climatology for each

variable. These are used to evaluate the seasonal couplings between variables of interest: SRD versus  $\text{DMS}_w$ ,  $\text{DMS}_{flux}$  versus OH,  $\gamma \text{DMS}_{flux}$  versus  $\text{CCN}_s$  and ETA. The global maps of seasonal correlations are based on the following procedure: using a running window of  $7^\circ \times 7^\circ$ , we obtained for each position (latitude, longitude) of the global ocean (i.e., for every  $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$  grid box) time series of 12 points (months) for the pair of variables we want to analyze. Each of the 12 points of the time series is the average of the 49 values taken by the running window in a given month. Then, for every  $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$  grid box of the global ocean we calculate the seasonal (Spearman) correlation coefficient between the two variables (12 degrees of freedom), generating a global map of seasonal correlations (significant correlations at 95% confidence level for  $|r| > 0.5$  and at 80% confidence level for  $|r| > 0.4$ ). Prior to the global analysis all fields are smoothed with a  $3^\circ$  latitude  $\times$   $3^\circ$  longitude  $\times$  3 months running mean [Wilson and Coles, 2005].

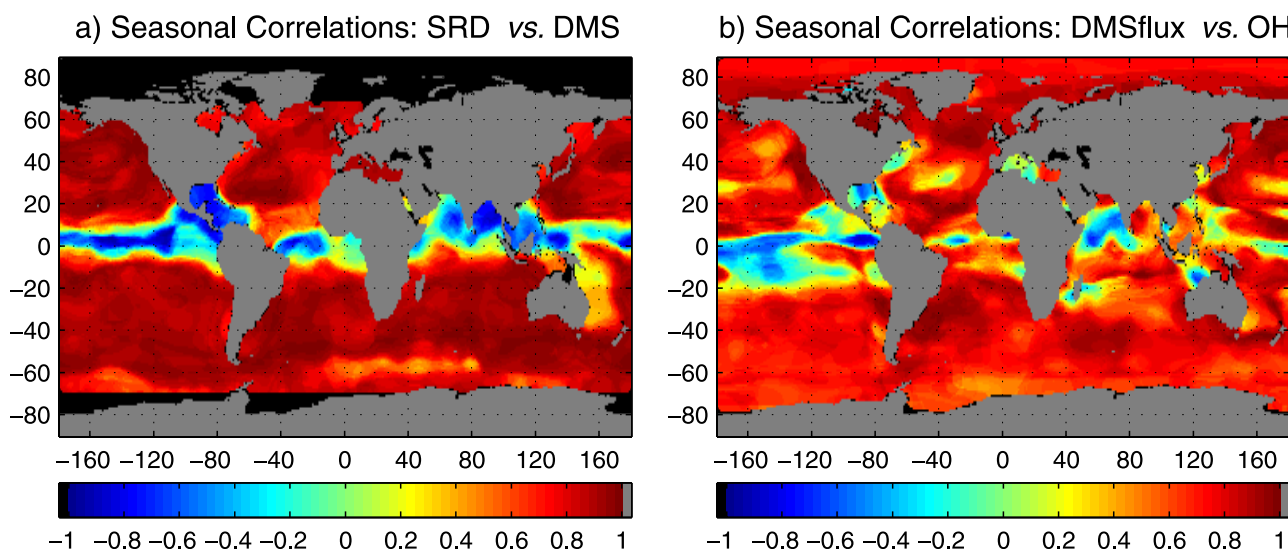
## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1. Global Maps of Seasonal Correlations

[15] Figure 1a shows that there is a strong seasonal coupling between the solar radiation dose in the UML and oceanic  $\text{DMS}_w$  concentrations, in agreement with the first postulate of the CLAW hypothesis that we are evaluating. Further, this coupling seems to be present almost everywhere in the global ocean. The areas where there is negative or no correlation are located mostly in the equatorial region. Owing to the very low seasonality of these latitudes, any error or uncertainty in the monthly  $\text{DMS}_w$  fields can generate a noise with higher amplitude than the underlying seasonality, thus largely affecting the correlation coefficient. These results are in agreement with recent works that have identified light as being the driving force of DMS in oligotrophic waters of the Sargasso Sea [Toole and Siegel, 2004] and NW Mediterranean [Vallina and Simó, 2007]. Long-term measurements conducted in several locations of the world have also shown that DMS generally increases in summer [Berresheim *et al.*, 1991; Ayers *et al.*, 1997; Ayers and Gillett, 2000; Sciare *et al.*, 2000; Jourdain and Legrand, 2001; Kouvarakis and Mihalopoulos, 2002; Toole and Siegel, 2004; Vallina and Simó, 2007].

[16] Owing to the role of the OH radical as the main DMS oxidizer to  $\text{nss-SO}_4$  and MSA, any coupling or mismatch between the seasonalities of OH and the  $\text{DMS}_{flux}$  will amplify or buffer the seasonal contribution of biogenic sulfur to CCN production. The seasonal coupling between  $\text{DMS}_{flux}$  and OH radical is very strong over most parts of the globe (see Figure 1b). Therefore summer months are characterized by both higher DMS emission and a better efficiency in the oxidation of DMS into CCN, that is, higher potential to counteract higher solar irradiances.

[17] Figure 2 displays the seasonal couplings between  $\gamma \text{DMS}_{flux}$  and MSA for 15 locations of the globe. In general we observe an excellent seasonal agreement between the two variables. Therefore our DMS oxidation proxy is able to capture MSA seasonality, as it should be if DMS oxidation is fuelling MSA production. A quantitative vali-



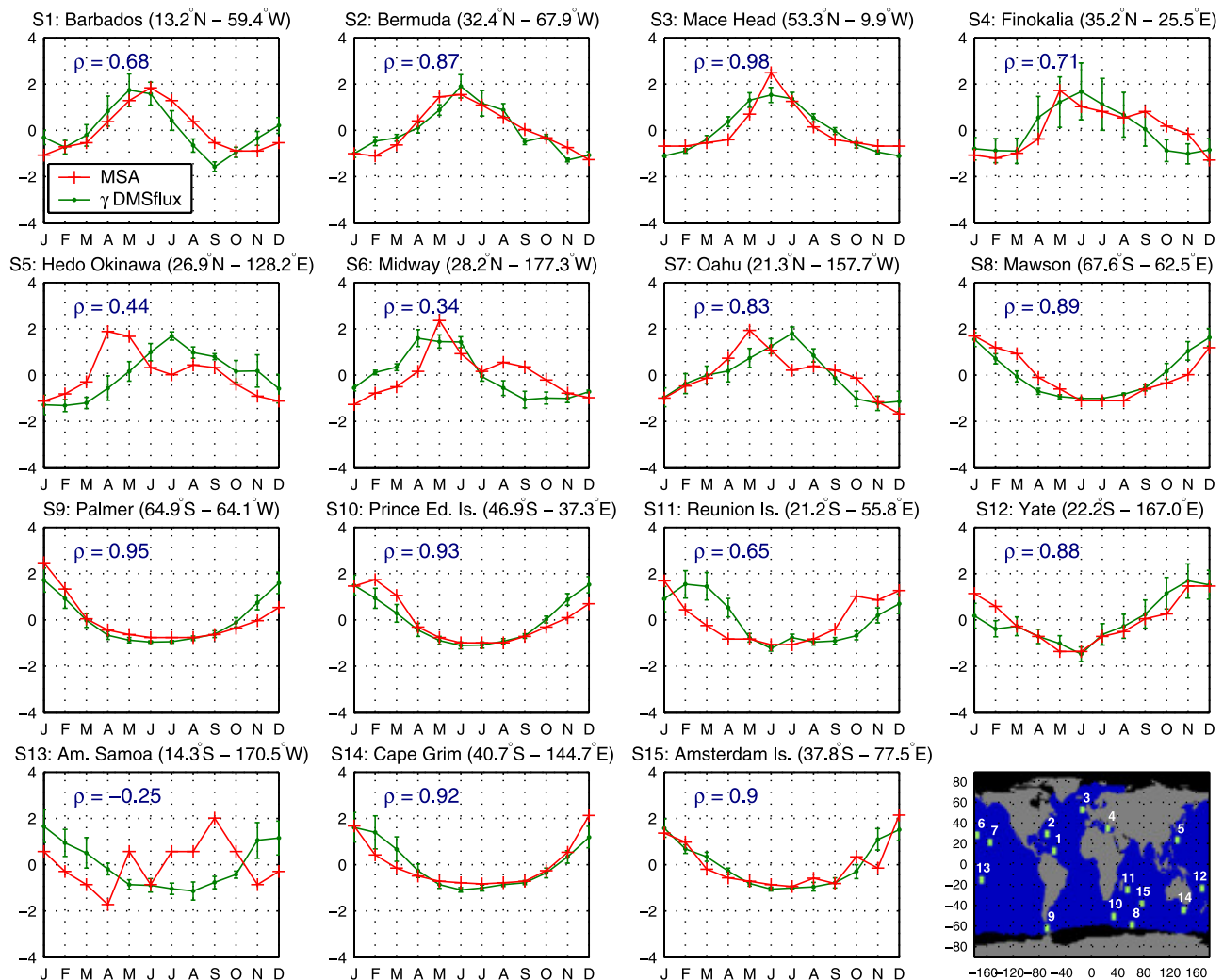
**Figure 1.** Global map of seasonal correlations between: (a) the solar radiation dose in the upper mixed layer and climatological monthly aqueous DMS concentrations (from Kettle and Andreae [2000]), and (b) the estimated DMS flux to the atmosphere [from Nightingale *et al.* 2000] and monthly hydroxyl-radical atmospheric concentrations [from Fiore *et al.*, 2003].

dation with MSA is not appropriate since the biogenic nss- $\text{SO}_4$  to MSA ratio from the gas-phase DMS oxidation is very variable between regions (up to a factor of 6) because it is temperature dependent, being much lower at high latitudes [Savoie *et al.*, 2002]. At Stations 5 and 13 the correlation coefficients between DMS oxidation and MSA are not significant. Station 5 is located in Japan (NE Pacific), a region subject to high levels of polluted aerosols in spring [Husar *et al.*, 1997; Tanré *et al.*, 2001; Prospero *et al.*, 2003]. Therefore the observed spring peak of MSA could be related to an heterogeneous nucleation of MSA on polluted aerosols. While  $\text{DMS}_a$  concentration in polluted air is generally much lower than in oceanic air masses, MSA concentrations are usually found to be also high in polluted air masses [Berresheim *et al.*, 1991; Wylie and de Mora, 1996], which may reflect its adsorption on preexisting continental aerosols. On the other hand, Station 13 (American Samoa,  $14.25^\circ\text{S}$ – $170.5^\circ\text{W}$ ) is a very clean oceanic region almost free from continental influences [Savoie *et al.*, 1989, 1994]. The low seasonality of this tropical location is probably the cause of the nonsignificant correlation. Similar results are obtained using MSA data from Fanning Island (not shown), located near the equator ( $3.85^\circ\text{N}$ – $159.36^\circ\text{W}$ ). At these two locations, MSA data does not show a clear seasonal cycle [Savoie and Prospero, 1989; Savoie *et al.*, 1994].

[18] Figures 3a and 3b show the seasonal couplings between DMS oxidation against  $\text{CCN}_s$  and ETA respectively, where it can be observed that large regions of the global ocean display strong positive correlations. This is especially true, as expected, at high latitudes, where the seasonal amplitude of  $\text{DMS}_w$  is higher. Of special interest is the SO ( $40^\circ\text{S}$ – $60^\circ\text{S}$ ) since it is a remote region weakly impacted by continental aerosols [Quinn *et al.*, 1998; Andreae *et al.*, 1999; Ayers and Gillett, 2000; Prospero *et al.*, 2002] where  $\text{DMS}_a$  concentrations are very high in austral spring and

summer [Curran and Jones, 1998]. For example, at Cape Grim  $\text{DMS}_a$  displays a strong seasonality [Ayers *et al.*, 1995]. Further, summertime  $\text{SO}_2$  concentrations in this pristine region are predominantly of marine origin [De Bruyn *et al.*, 1998]. During austral summer, a band of relatively high  $\text{CCN}_s$  concentrations is clearly observed over the SO (see DJF plot in Figure 4). This  $\text{CCN}_s$  band does not display spatial gradients coming from continents, which is a strong indication of a marine origin. SS does not seem either to be the source of this austral summer high aerosol band [Husar *et al.*, 1997; Vallina *et al.*, 2006]. Its DMS-related origin is supported by the seasonality of the fine mode aerosols (Figure 5) [see also Vallina *et al.*, 2006], field observations in the region [Davison *et al.*, 1996; Andreae *et al.*, 1999] as well as modeling works [Yoon and Brimblecombe, 2002; Gondwe *et al.* 2003; Kloster *et al.* 2006].

[19] Strong positive correlations between DMS oxidation and  $\text{CCN}_s$  (as well as ETA) are also found over oceans where nss- $\text{SO}_4$  inputs from anthropogenic sources are known to be higher than nss- $\text{SO}_4$  inputs from DMS (i.e., North Atlantic, North Pacific) [Berresheim *et al.*, 1981; Van Dingenen *et al.*, 1995; Prospero, 1996; Nagao *et al.*, 1999; Chin *et al.*, 2000; Andreae *et al.*, 2003]. This can be also observed through much higher  $\text{CCN}_s$  numbers present in these regions during the boreal summer (JJA) compared to  $\text{CCN}_s$  numbers over the SO during the austral summer (Figure 4). It is obvious that there is a general trend toward higher aerosol numbers in each hemispheric summer [Husar *et al.*, 1997] (Figure 4). While to some extent this fact can be related to atmospheric circulation changes (e.g., the increase of aerosol loading during the boreal summer in the Caribbean Sea is due to a northern shift, following the ITCZ movement, of the dust pathway coming from Africa [Prospero, 1996; Perry *et al.*, 1997; Ginoux *et al.*, 2001]) or precipitation seasonality (e.g., biomass burning usually



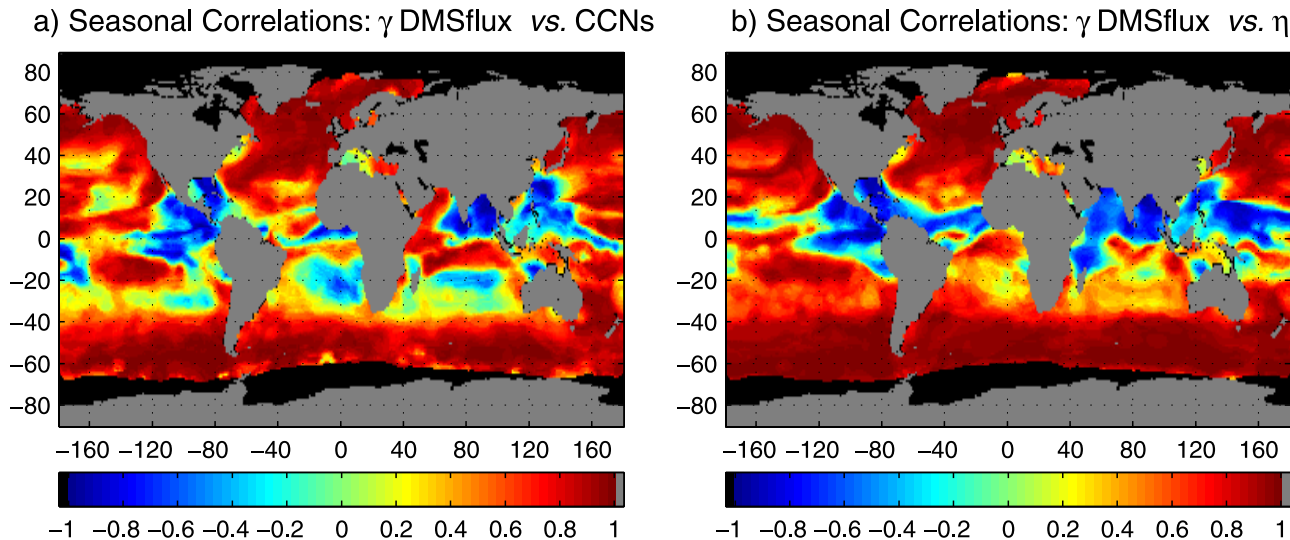
**Figure 2.** Seasonal evolution and the associated Spearman correlation coefficient of the atmospheric DMS oxidation against monthly climatological methanesulfonate concentrations in aerosols at 15 locations of the globe. (Variables are presented in standardized form, i.e., subtracting the mean and dividing by the standard deviation).

increases during the dry season peaking in each hemispheric spring [Duncan *et al.*, 2003]), in some regions it is certainly related to the oxidation of  $\text{SO}_2$  to form nss- $\text{SO}_4$  aerosols [Rasch *et al.*, 2000; Chin *et al.*, 2000; Barrie *et al.*, 2001]. For example, in the North Atlantic, which is heavily impacted by pollution from Europe and North America [Van Dingenen *et al.*, 1995; Husar *et al.*, 1997; Andreae *et al.*, 2003], the levels of nss- $\text{SO}_4$  clearly increase in boreal summer, despite anthropogenic  $\text{SO}_2$  emissions in these regions being fairly constant throughout the year [Smith *et al.*, 2001; Andreae *et al.*, 2003] (or even slightly higher in boreal winter in Europe [Chin *et al.*, 2000; Rasch *et al.*, 2000; Smith *et al.*, 2001; Rotstajn and Lohmann, 2002]) and  $\text{SO}_2$  concentrations display a summer minimum due to the higher oxidative efficiency to form nss- $\text{SO}_4$  [Berresheim *et al.*, 1991; Chin *et al.*, 2000; Rasch *et al.*, 2000; Rotstajn and Lohmann, 2002]. The summertime increase of nss- $\text{SO}_4$  and  $\text{CCN}_s$  in the North Atlantic is therefore not related to the seasonality of their precursor  $\text{SO}_2$  but to its increased

oxidation efficiency by OH. On the other hand, in relatively pollution-free regions like Amsterdam Island (37.8°S–77.5°E) the  $\text{SO}_2$  increase in summer is probably due to a DMS origin [Rotstajn and Lohmann, 2002; Kloster *et al.*, 2006]. We must conclude, therefore, that atmospheric oxidation efficiencies are an important actor in aerosol production. This supports that  $\text{SO}_2$  (whatever its origin, anthropogenic or DMS) is indeed able to fuel new particle formation and it is responsible for a nonnegligible fraction of the observed  $\text{CCN}_s$ .

[20] The areas with low or negative correlations between DMS oxidation and  $\text{CCN}_s$  or ETA are mostly in the equatorial to tropical regions (Figure 3). These are latitudes where the DMS concentration and flux show low seasonal variability, which precludes from finding significant correlations using a seasonal correlation analysis. Moreover, these are regions with high loads of continental aerosols (mostly dust and biomass burning particles) that can also contribute to satellite-retrieved  $\text{CCN}_s$  numbers (Figure 4).





**Figure 3.** Global map of seasonal correlations between atmospheric DMS oxidation and: (a) monthly climatological (years 2002 to 2004) satellite-derived CCN concentrations (using the method of *Gassó and Hegg* [2003]), (b) monthly climatological (years 2002 to 2004) satellite-derived contribution of small mode particles to the Aerosol Optical Depth (ETA parameter =  $AOD_{small}/AOD_{total}$ ) as provided by MODIS.

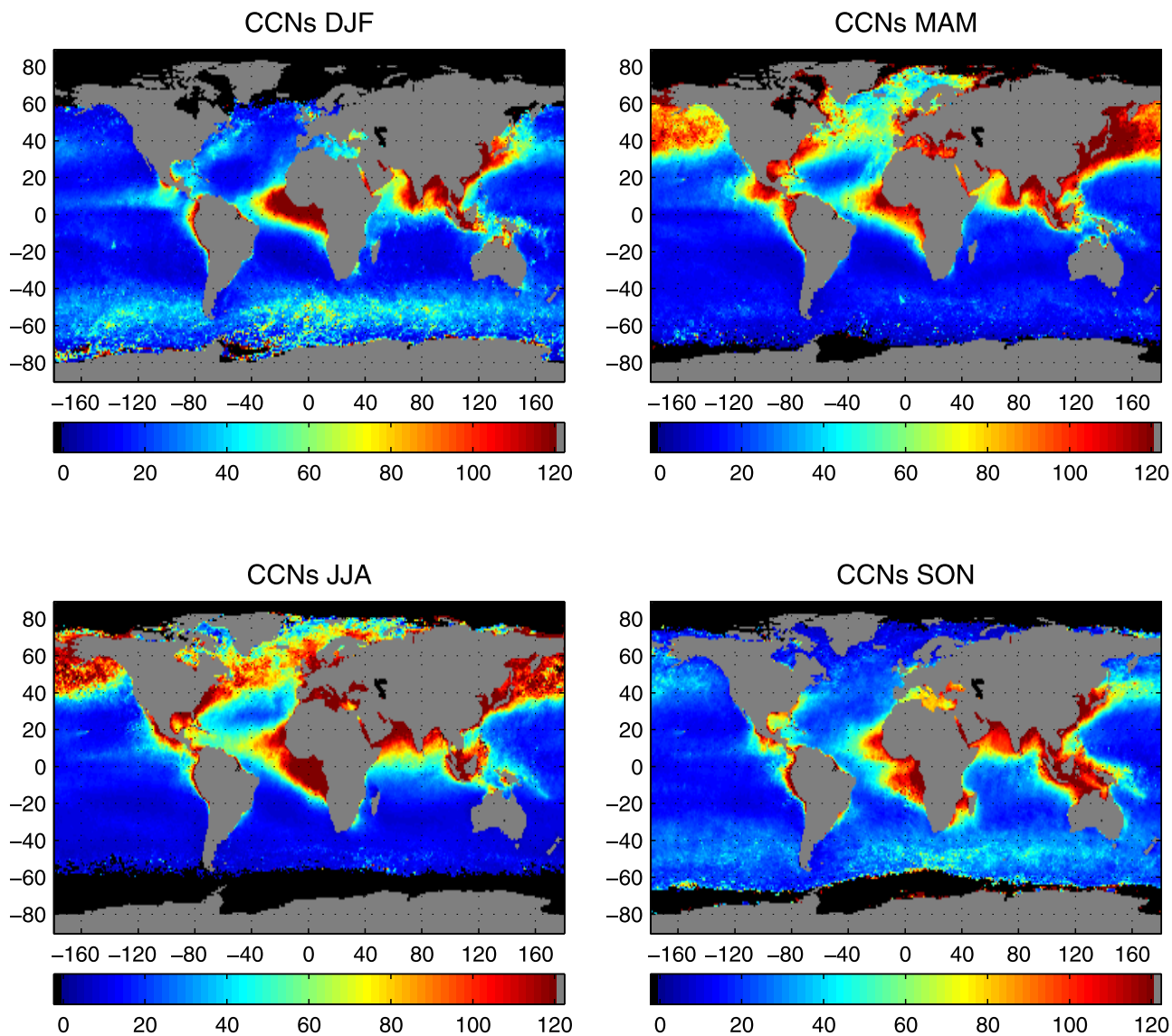
For example, the very high values of CCN<sub>s</sub> observed off the tropical West Africa (see Figure 4) are strongly contributed by aerosols from biomass burning [*Husar et al.*, 1997; *Tanré et al.*, 2001; *Kaufman et al.*, 2002; *Duncan et al.*, 2003]. This is also the case over the Pacific off Central America and the Indonesian region [*Husar et al.*, 1997; *Deuzé et al.*, 1999; *Tanré et al.*, 2001; *Duncan et al.*, 2003]. This can also be observed in Figure 5 since biomass burning aerosols are mostly accumulation mode particles (therefore the ETA parameter is very high). Interestingly, the Arabian Sea shows a positive correlation between DMS oxidation and CCN<sub>s</sub> while it is negative between DMS oxidation and ETA. This is an indication that the observed increase of CCN<sub>s</sub> in boreal summer in this region (see the JJA plot in Figure 4) is not related to an increase of small aerosols but to an increase of coarser aerosols, and therefore that they do not come from DMS oxidation. This is in agreement with previous works that have found an increase of both dust from the Arabian Peninsula (at high altitudes) along with an increase of SS concentrations (at low altitudes) due to the strong winds of the SW monsoon [*Husar et al.*, 1997; *Tindale and Pease*, 1999; *Li and Ramanathan*, 2002]. A similar situation is observed in the region between off Northwestern Africa (around 10°N) and northern South America, a well known path for African dust [*Swap et al.*, 1992]. Although dust and SS aerosols mainly belong to coarse particles, a fraction of them can be present in the accumulation mode [*Perry et al.*, 1997; *Murphy et al.*, 1998; *Satheesh et al.*, 1999], then affecting CCN<sub>s</sub> retrieval. Therefore, in order to infer which regions could be under biogenic aerosol production it is necessary to combine the analysis of global correlation maps of DMS oxidation against CCN<sub>s</sub> as well as against the ETA parameter. An

increase of biogenic CCN<sub>s</sub> should be followed by an increase of ETA.

### 3.2. Biogenic Contribution to CCN Numbers

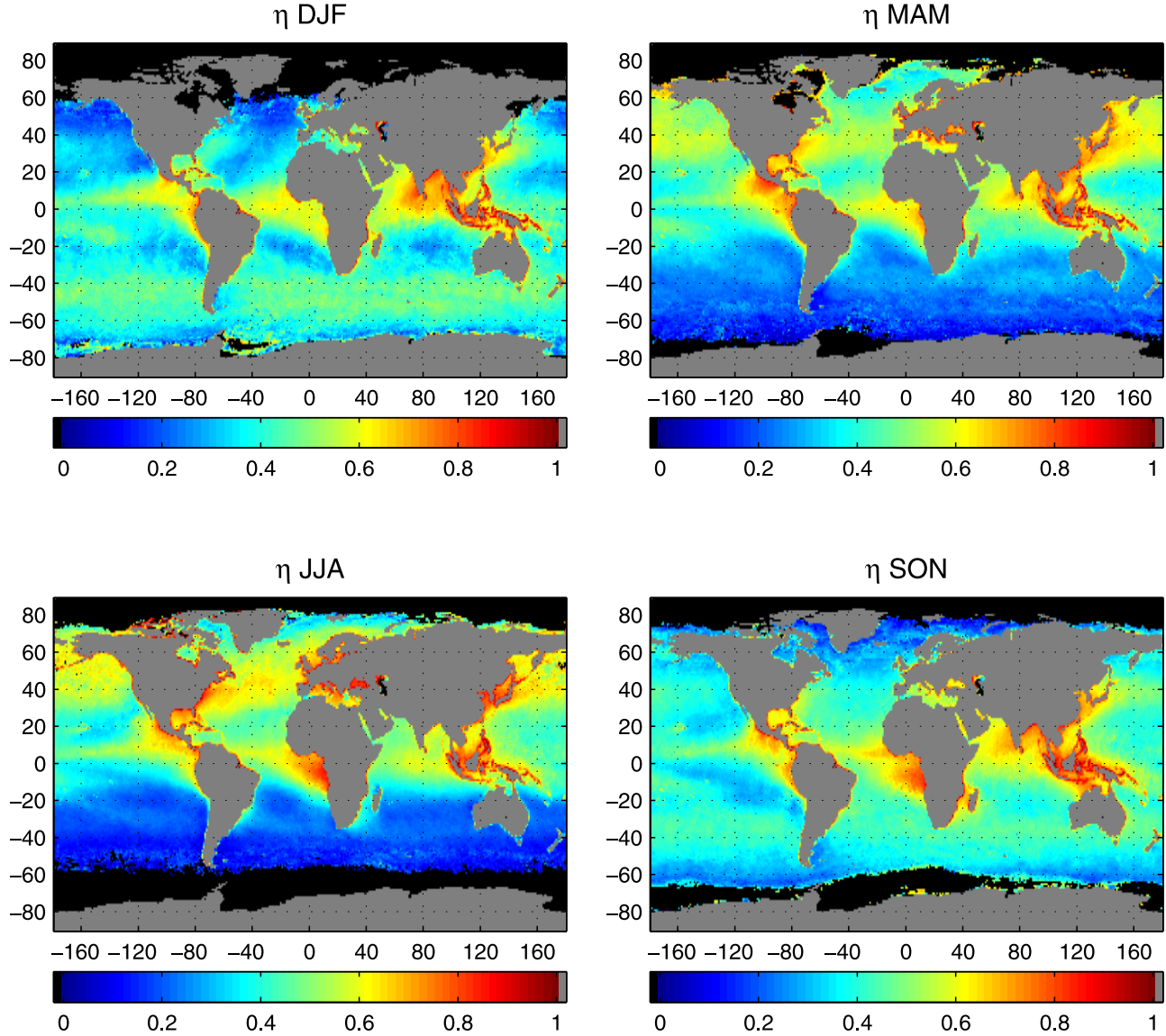
[21] The correlation analyses have shown that in large regions of the ocean the DMS oxidation and CCN<sub>s</sub> are seasonally coupled, but this type of analysis does not provide any quantitative information about the contribution of biogenic CCN<sub>s</sub> to total CCN<sub>s</sub> numbers over the oceans. To obtain such information, we first focus on the SO since this is the region where CCN seasonality is believed to be driven mainly by DMS oxidation [*Ayers et al.*, 1997; *Husar et al.*, 1997; *Ayers and Gillett*, 2000; *Gondwe et al.*, 2003, 2004; *Kloster et al.*, 2006; *Vallina et al.*, 2006]. We calculate the spatial mean value of  $\gamma$ DMS<sub>flux</sub> and CCN<sub>s</sub> for each month over the whole SO area between 40°S and 60°S (therefore obtaining 12 data points). A regression analysis  $\gamma$ DMS<sub>flux</sub> versus CCN<sub>s</sub> is then applied in order to estimate the value of the slope  $b$  of equation (2) for this region. Results are shown in Figure 6. The determination coefficient is high ( $r^2 = 0.83$ ) and close to the value of  $r^2 = 0.84$  obtained by *Ayers et al.* [1997] using climatological DMS<sub>a</sub> and CCN from in situ measurements at Cape Grim (40.7°S–144.7°E). Further, using the normalized data (values divided by its annual mean), we obtain similar (normalized) regression coefficients to those of *Ayers et al.* [1997]. The (normalized) intercept is 0.41 (it was 0.48 at Cape Grim) and the (normalized) slope is 0.59 (it was 0.52 at Cape Grim) (see the equation in brackets in Figure 6).

[22] If over the SO CCN numbers are linked to DMS oxidation, this link between biogenic CCN and DMS must occur also over other regions, yet it could be hidden by continental CCN sources over less pristine areas. Assuming that the slope value  $b = 3.57$  obtained for the SO (Figure 6)



**Figure 4.** Global maps of monthly climatological (years 2002 to 2004) satellite-derived CCN concentrations (partic cm<sup>-2</sup>; using the method of Gassó and Hegg [2003]) for the four seasons. DJF, December to February; MAM, March to May; JJA, June to August; SON, September to November.



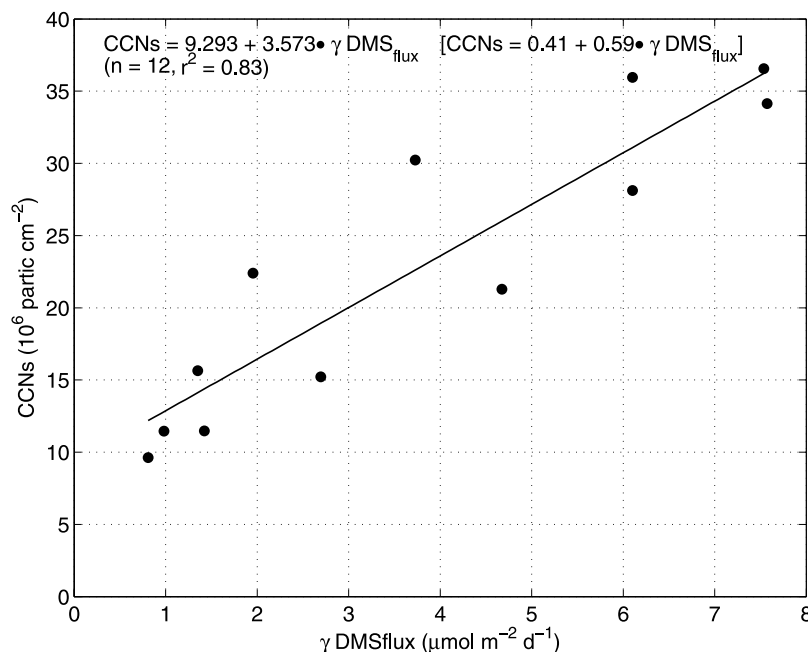


**Figure 5.** Global maps of monthly climatological (years 2002 to 2004) satellite-derived contribution of small mode particles to the Aerosol Optical Depth (ETA parameter =  $AOD_{small}/AOD_{total}$ ) (as provided by MODIS) for the four seasons. DJF: December to February; MAM: March to May; JJA: June to August; SON: September to November.

is valid for other regions, we apply equation (2) in order to estimate  $CCN_{bio}$  from DMS oxidation fluxes in 15 regions of the global ocean (the value of the intercept, 9.29, is assumed to be a constant background of SS fine mode aerosols [Andreae *et al.*, 1999] and then it is subtracted to take into account only the biogenic contribution [Vallina *et al.*, 2006]). Nevertheless CCN formation is a very complex process that depends on many factors (such as aerosol composition, aerosol size and supersaturation). All these factors are certainly different for the regions in which we apply the regression derived for SO conditions. However, up to now all these processes are not well enough understood to include them into our analysis. Results are shown in Figure 7, where  $\rho$  is the (Spearman) correlation coefficient between  $CCN_{bio}$  and  $CCN_s$ , and  $\beta = \frac{\sum CCN_{bio}}{\sum CCN_s} * 100$  is

the annual contribution of biogenic derived  $CCN_s$  to the total  $CCN_s$ .

[23]  $CCN_{bio}$  contributes annually about a 60% to the total  $CCN_s$  in the SO (region 14; from about 30% in austral winter to 80% in austral summer [see also Vallina *et al.*, 2006], being the remaining  $CCN_s$  probably small SS [Andreae *et al.*, 1999; Vallina *et al.*, 2006]). However, the estimated  $CCN_{bio}$  fraction for the Antarctic (region 15) is only 24%. The very low model OH concentrations present in this high-latitude region give rise to very low values of  $\gamma$  ( $<0.3$  for all months except for October and November with  $\approx 0.55$ ), therefore reducing the estimated DMS available for CCN production. Nevertheless, in situ measurements of MSA and nss- $SO_4$  suggest that DMS plays a primary role in the atmospheric sulfur cycle over the Antarctic continent



**Figure 6.** Regression analyses of atmospheric DMS oxidation against monthly climatological (years 2002 to 2004) satellite-derived CCN concentrations (using the method of Gassó and Hegg [2003]) for the Southern Ocean (defined as the area comprised between 40°S and 60°S).

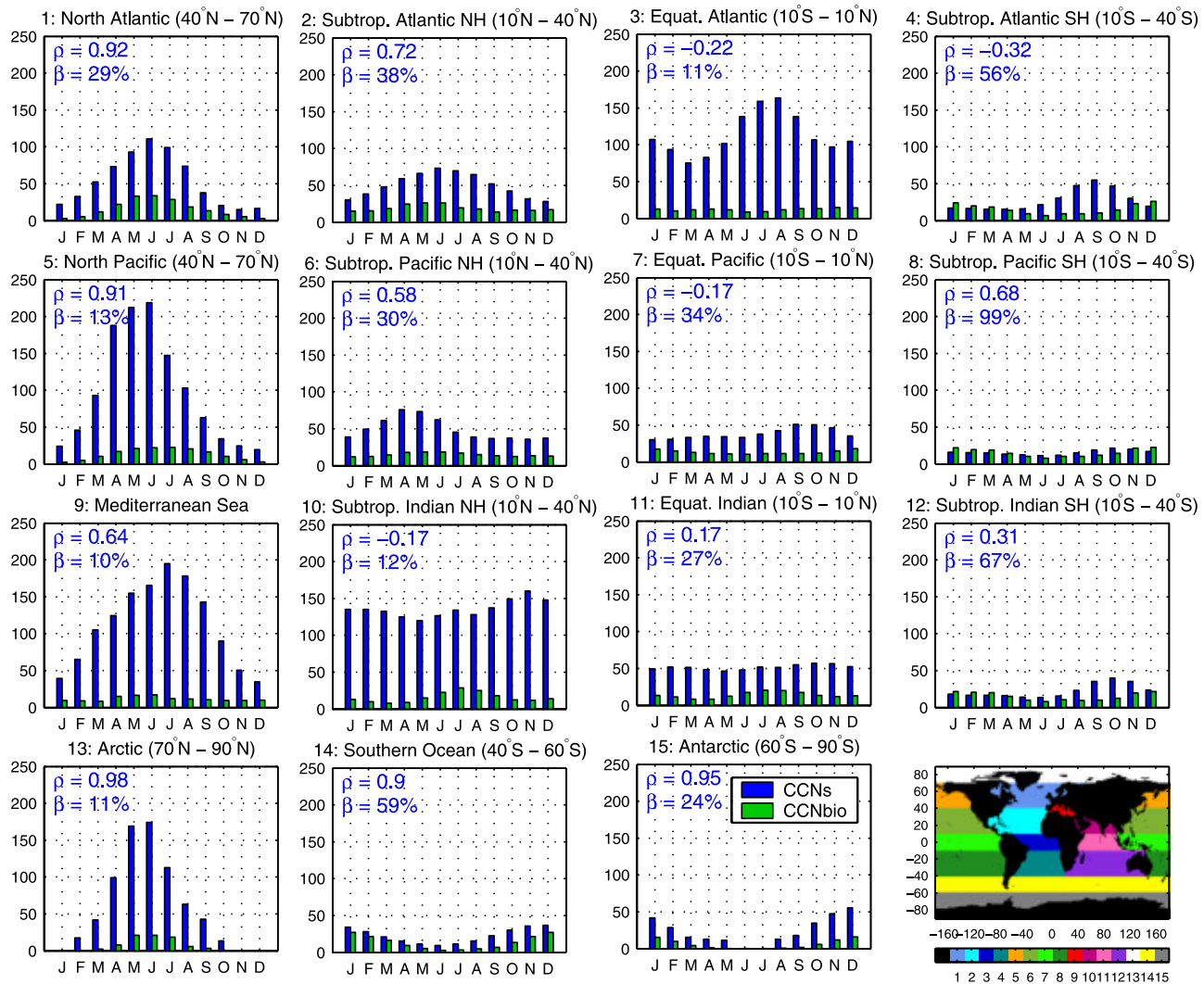
[Savoie *et al.*, 1992; Minikin *et al.*, 1998]. Thus further research is needed in this region. It has been proposed that a large fraction of  $DMS_a$  is transported out of the marine boundary layer (MBL) where, in the presence of high OH and low aerosol scavenging, oxidized sulfur species accumulate and are entrained episodically back into the MBL [Davis *et al.*, 1998].

[24] Other regions where DMS oxidation could be a significant source of CCN are the subtropical Atlantic (both hemispheres; regions 2 and 4), and the subtropical South Pacific and Indian oceans (regions 8 and 12 respectively). In the subtropical North Atlantic (region 2), although there is a good correlation between  $CCN_{bio}$  and  $CCN_s$  ( $\rho = 0.72$ ), the absolute contribution is rather moderate ( $\beta = 38\%$ ). Only over the western part DMS may contribute up to 75% of the sulfur budget under easterly winds, although under westerly winds anthropogenic sulfur from North America dominates [Berresheim *et al.*, 1991]. Also, in boreal spring and summer this region is also under the influence of supramicron particles of African dust plumes coated with  $SO_4$  from Europe [Li-Jones and Prospero, 1998]. In April at Barbados (13.15°N–59.30°W), when dust and pollution levels are low, the dominant source of nss- $SO_4$  is ascribed to DMS and the submicron fraction dominates (up to 80%) [Li-Jones and Prospero, 1998]. Annually, the estimated DMS contribution to the nss- $SO_4$  at Barbados and Bermuda (32.27°N–64.87°W) is  $\approx 50\%$  and  $\approx 30\%$  respectively [Savoie *et al.*, 2002]. The subtropical South Atlantic (region 4,  $\beta = 56\%$ ) displays a seasonal  $CCN_s$  maximum in September not related to  $CCN_{bio}$  but to biomass burning over tropical Africa [Husar *et al.*, 1997; Deuzé *et al.*, 1999; Goloub and Arino, 2000; Tanré *et al.*, 2001; Duncan *et al.*, 2003; Ross *et al.*, 2003] (see also SON plot in Figures 3 and 4). African biomass burning aerosols are also transported

over Madagascar and the subtropical Southern Indian Ocean (region 12,  $\beta = 67\%$ ) in October, the burning season in Southeastern Africa [Deuzé *et al.*, 1999; Goloub and Arino, 2000; Duncan *et al.*, 2003] (see also SON plot in Figures 3 and 4). This explains why the obtained seasonal correlations are not significant for regions 4 and 12 ( $\rho = -0.32$  and  $0.31$  respectively) while the biogenic contribution is significant. Over the subtropical South Pacific (region 8)  $CCN_{bio}$  are significantly correlated to  $CCN_s$  ( $\rho = 0.68$ ) and the estimated biogenic contribution is very high ( $\beta = 99\%$ ). This is in agreement with field studies which have found that marine-derived DMS may provide essentially all of nss- $SO_4$  over the tropical South Pacific [Savoie *et al.*, 1989].

[25] In many of the regions, however, it is clear that the estimated  $CCN_{bio}$  has a minor annual contribution to the total  $CCN_s$ . This is the case of the North Atlantic (region 1,  $\beta = 29\%$ ), a region known for being under the influence of heavily polluted air masses from Europe and North America in spring and summer [Van Dingenen *et al.*, 1995; Husar *et al.*, 1997; Andreae *et al.*, 2003]. For example, at Mace Head (53.32°N–9.85°W) the annual biogenic contribution to nss- $SO_4$  is estimated to be less than 15% [Savoie *et al.*, 2002]. In boreal spring, DMS contribution to nss- $SO_4$  is also estimated in  $\approx 10\%$  [Andreae *et al.*, 2003]. Regarding  $CCN_s$  variability ( $\rho = 0.92$ ), although  $CCN_{bio}$  in the North Atlantic are higher in summer, they can hardly account for the full  $CCN_s$  seasonality: if we subtract  $CCN_{bio}$  from total  $CCN_s$ , the remaining (putatively anthropogenic)  $CCN_s$  still have a summer-to-winter ratio of 2.25. Therefore higher summertime oxidation of anthropogenic  $SO_2$  is an important process affecting CCN seasonality over the North Atlantic.

[26] The equatorial Atlantic (region 3,  $\beta = 11\%$ ) is highly impacted by biomass burning and dust from Africa, and the equatorial Indian Ocean (region 11,  $\beta = 27\%$ ) by biomass



**Figure 7.** Seasonal evolution of monthly climatological (years 2002 to 2004) satellite-derived CCN concentrations ( $\text{partic cm}^{-2}$ ; using the method of *Gassó and Hegg* [2003]) and the estimated biogenic CCN from DMS oxidation for 15 regions of the global ocean ( $\rho$  is the Spearman correlation coefficient between  $\text{CCN}_{\text{bio}}$  and  $\text{CCN}_s$ , and  $\beta = \frac{\sum \text{CCN}_{\text{bio}}}{\sum \text{CCN}_s} * 100$  is the annual contribution of  $\text{CCN}_{\text{bio}}$  to the total  $\text{CCN}_s$ ).

burning from the Indonesian region. In the equatorial Pacific (region 7), which is also impacted by biomass burning from Central America in spring [*Husar et al.*, 1997; *Deuzé et al.*, 1999; *Goloub and Arino*, 2000; *Tanré et al.*, 2001; *Kaufman et al.*, 2002; *Duncan et al.*, 2003], the estimated contribution of biogenic sulfur to  $\text{CCN}_s$  numbers is a bit higher ( $\beta = 34\%$ ). Nevertheless, in terms of sulfate aerosols, almost all  $\text{nss-SO}_4$  over the equatorial Pacific (e.g., American Samoa, Fanning Island) has been suggested to originate from the oxidation of oceanic DMS [*Savoie and Prospero*, 1989; *Savoie et al.*, 1994]. Near the Christmas Islands ( $1.52^\circ\text{N}$ – $157.2^\circ\text{W}$ ), DMS has also been identified as the dominant source of MBL’s  $\text{SO}_2$ , and clear relationships between DMS,  $\text{SO}_2$ , OH and  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  (sulfuric acid) have been observed at a day length scale [*Davis et al.*, 1999]. Also, in this region it has been demonstrated that

aerosol nucleation and growth in the MBL is linked to the natural marine sulfur cycle [*Clarke et al.*, 1998].

[27] Over the North Pacific (region 5), strong mixed plumes of polluted (mainly  $\text{nss-SO}_4$  and black carbon) and dust aerosols are emitted from Asia each spring and summer [*Husar et al.*, 1997; *Nagao et al.*, 1999; *Deuzé et al.*, 1999; *Prospero et al.*, 2002]. These are the dominant sources of  $\text{CCN}_s$  over the region, in agreement with the low beta value obtained (13%). However, in terms of sulfur, the Asian anthropogenic source is estimated to provide only about 15–25% of the  $\text{nss-SO}_4$  in the North Pacific [*Savoie et al.*, 1989]. For example, at Sheyma ( $50^\circ\text{N}$ – $170^\circ\text{E}$ ), although during spring  $\text{nss-SO}_4$  is mainly from pollution, summertime  $\text{nss-SO}_4$  is dominated by biogenic sources [*Savoie and Prospero*, 1989]. The subtropical North Pacific (region 6,  $\beta = 30\%$ ) is less impacted by continental aerosols although they still dominate in the northern part of the



region close to the Asian continent [Nagao *et al.*, 1999] (see Figure 3). In this regard, over the subtropical northwestern Pacific a positive correlation was found between DMS<sub>a</sub> and CCN in clean marine air and DMS was identified as a key factor in the production of nss-SO<sub>4</sub> and CCN [Nagao *et al.*, 1999]. Also, over more open ocean locations DMS can significantly contribute to the total nss-SO<sub>4</sub> burden. For example, at Midway Island (28.22°N–177.3°W) the annual contribution of DMS to the nss-SO<sub>4</sub> is estimated at ≈60% [Prospero *et al.*, 2003].

[28] The Arctic (region 13,  $\beta = 11\%$ ) is under the influence of SO<sub>2</sub> pollution from Europe and Asia [Barrie *et al.*, 1989]. The subtropical North Indian Ocean (region 10,  $\beta = 12\%$ ) is characterized by very high levels of pollution aerosols during winter (NE monsoon) and by dust and SS during summer (SW monsoon) [Johansen *et al.*, 1999; Tindale and Pease, 1999; Ramanathan *et al.*, 2001; Li and Ramanathan, 2002]. Nevertheless, the fraction of nss-SO<sub>4</sub> derived from DMS is significant (from ≈20% during the NE monsoon to ≈75% during the SW monsoon [Johansen *et al.*, 1999]). During the NE monsoon, the contribution to the AOD of a 20% of natural nss-SO<sub>4</sub> is estimated to be very low (about a 5%) [Satheesh *et al.*, 2002]. Also, CCN properties over the Indian Ocean (North and South) differ depending on their origin: in polluted air masses, CCN particles have both a higher diameter and a higher percentage of refractory (nonvolatile) material than CCN in clean marine air [see Ramanathan *et al.*, 2001, Plate 7]. Finally, the lowest CCN<sub>bio</sub> contribution occurs over the Mediterranean Sea (region 9,  $\beta = 10\%$ ), a region mostly impacted by pollution from Europe and dust from Africa [Husar *et al.*, 1997; Prospero *et al.*, 2002]. In terms of sulfur, the maximum contribution of DMS to the nss-SO<sub>4</sub> is also low (≈20–30% in summer [Kouvarakis and Mihalopoulos, 2002; Kubilay *et al.*, 2002; Kouvarakis *et al.*, 2002]).

[29] Globally, the annual contribution of CCN<sub>bio</sub> to the total CCN<sub>s</sub> is estimated to be ≈30%. This value should be viewed as an upper end estimate since CCN<sub>bio</sub> losses by rain washout were not taken into account. These results are in agreement with recent global models of the sulfur cycle that estimate the contribution of DMS to the global burden of nss-SO<sub>4</sub> to be ≈20–30%. Yet, similar to our findings, it can be more than an 80–90% over the pollution-free SO in the austral summer [Heintzenberg *et al.*, 2000; Gondwe *et al.*, 2003, 2004; Kloster *et al.*, 2006]. All in all, this global estimate of the oceanic biogenic contribution to CCN has to taken with some caution due to the uncertainties going along with the approach used.

### 3.3. Uncertainty Analysis

[30] The estimates of the biogenic contribution to CCN<sub>s</sub> carry an associated uncertainty that arises from the various uncertainties within the approach used: the satellite retrieval of CCN, sea surface DMS concentrations, DMS oxidation in the atmosphere. To address them all we have performed an uncertainty analysis (UA) by repeating the quantitative analyses under different conditions. The importance of the satellite retrieval of CCN<sub>s</sub> has been evaluated by using an alternative set of CCN<sub>s</sub> data (MODIS algorithm, which uses a different

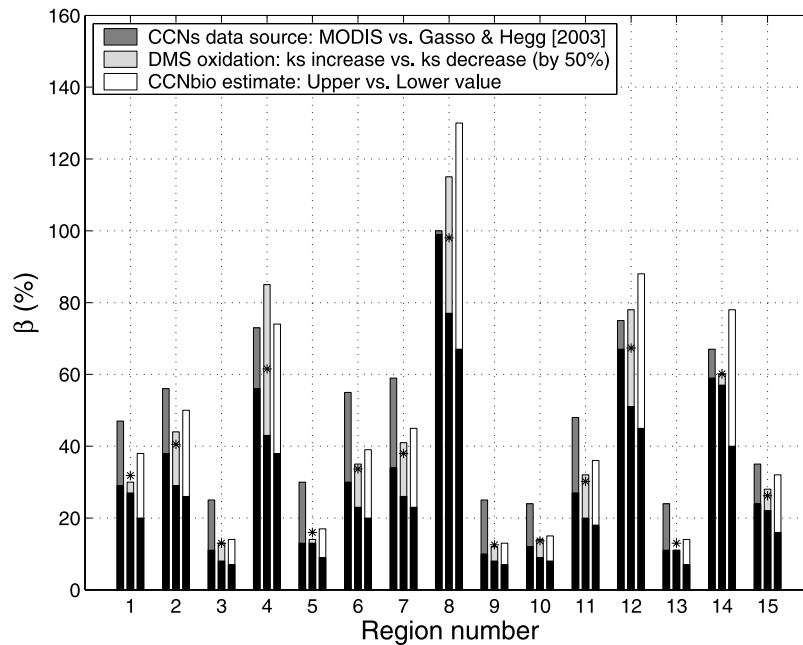
method for CCN derivation) and comparing the results with those obtained with the modified version of the Gassó and Hegg [2003] algorithm used in the present study. The importance of uncertainties regarding the DMS oxidation has been addressed by increasing/decreasing the  $k_s$  constant of the oxidation efficiency  $\gamma$  parameter (see equation (3)) by 50%. The same approach has been used for the DMS<sub>w</sub> concentrations (increase/decrease by 50%). Also, we have evaluated the confidence intervals of the current estimates of the biogenic contribution to the CCN<sub>s</sub> by applying equation (2) using the upper and lower limits (95% confidence intervals) of the regression parameters obtained over the SO. That is, the upper end estimates of CCN<sub>bio</sub> result from using the upper slope value with the lower intercept value; the lower end estimates of CCN<sub>bio</sub> result from using the lower slope value with the higher intercept value. UA results are listed in auxiliary material Table S1<sup>1</sup>. Since the increase/decrease DMS<sub>w</sub> did not produce any change, we have omitted it.

[31] Figure 8 displays the estimates of biogenic contribution to the CCN<sub>s</sub> at each region of the global ocean for all these six UA scenarios. Maximum  $\beta$  estimates are given by the top of the color bars while minimum  $\beta$  estimates are given by the top of the black bars. At each of the 15 regions, we have then 3 columns (each one with a maximum and a minimum  $\beta$  value). The first column represents the results of the UA related to the CCN<sub>s</sub> data set; the second one is the UA related to the DMS oxidation parameterization; and the third one is the UA related to the regression equation (confidence intervals of the regression parameters) used to estimate CCN<sub>bio</sub>. In the first case, we obtain systematically higher biogenic contributions to CCN when using the MODIS CCN<sub>s</sub> (dark gray bar) than with our CCN<sub>s</sub> estimates (black bar;  $\beta$  values are from Figure 7). Similarly, an increase in the  $k_s$  constant produce higher  $\beta$  values in all the regions except the 13 (no change) and 15 (small decrease) (light gray bar versus black bar). The highest variability is obtained from the use of different equations (upper and lower confidence intervals) for CCN<sub>bio</sub> estimates (third column; white bar versus black bar). The black stars denote the  $\beta$  values obtained by averaging the six scenarios; they are generally very close the value obtained for the standard case (the black bar in each first column, also Figure 7). Therefore, although the absolute values of the biogenic contribution estimates carry substantial uncertainty, the observed trends are robust enough. Only four regions show a dominant CCN<sub>bio</sub> contribution to the total CCN<sub>s</sub> numbers (more than ≈60%) and they are all located in the Southern Hemisphere (regions 4, 8, 12 and 14).

## 4. Conclusions

[32] On the basis of globally mapped seasonal correlations between climatological data, we have tested if oceanic DMS concentrations may be driven by the solar radiation dose in the upper mixed layer, if DMS emissions to the atmosphere are coupled to satellite-derived CCN concentrations, and if this biogenic contribution could be significant from a regional and global perspective. While seasonal

<sup>1</sup>Auxiliary materials are available at <ftp://ftp.agu.org/apend/gb/2006gb002787>.



**Figure 8.** Uncertainty analysis of the estimated annual biogenic contribution to total  $CCN_s$  concentrations for 15 regions of the global ocean ( $\beta = \frac{\sum CCN_{bio}}{\sum CCN_s} * 100$ ). For each region, the first column represents the uncertainty analysis related to the  $CCN_s$  data set (MODIS algorithm versus *Gasso and Hegg* [2003] algorithm); the second one is the uncertainty analysis related to the DMS oxidation parameterization (50%  $k_s$  increase versus 50%  $k_s$  decrease); and the third one is the uncertainty analysis related to the regression equation (confidence intervals of the parameters) use to estimate  $CCN_{bio}$ . Maximum  $\beta$  estimates are given by the top of the color bars while minimum  $\beta$  estimates are given by the top of the black bars.

correlations are never a proof of causality, they indicate the degree to which variables move in concert and can therefore be very useful to test hypotheses of mechanistic links between the variables and, if the correlations do not show the expected couplings, reject the hypotheses. Regarding the CLAW hypothesis, the obtained results do not contradict its main two postulates: (1) an increase (decrease) of solar irradiance can produce an increase (decrease) of seawater DMS (and then its emission to the atmosphere); (2) an increase (decrease) of DMS emissions can produce an increase (decrease) of CCN. They rather support them, although the observed couplings between DMS oxidation and CCN concentrations can only be attributable to a biogenic origin over clean regions of the Southern Hemisphere. However, our approach does not fully rule out that the observed correlation are due to an independent seasonal variation of the studied variables; seasonal couplings are “necessary but not sufficient” conditions to prove the CLAW hypothesis [Bates *et al.*, 1987]. Nevertheless, a sequence of observations point toward the existence of a negative feedback. Recent results have pointed out the possibility that DMS production has a protective function inside phytoplankton cells against high UV radiation [Sunda *et al.*, 2002], resulting in a constant leakage of this compound from the stressed cells into seawater. This, together with a complex web of biotic and abiotic processes, results in the accumulation of DMS in highly irradiated surface waters [Simó and Pedrós-Allió, 1999; Toole and Siegel,

2004; Vallina and Simó, 2007]. As solar radiation increases in summer, the subsequent increase of aqueous DMS would increase DMS emission to the atmosphere, its oxidation to nss- $SO_4$  aerosols, and CCN formation, which would reduce the level of solar radiation exposure of the surface ocean. The efficiency of this process would be enhanced if the main atmospheric DMS oxidant (the OH radical) increased also in summer, a period of maximum atmospheric vertical convection [Barrie *et al.*, 2001] that would facilitate the DMS-OH mixing and oxidation as well as a higher  $SO_2$  to nss- $SO_4$  conversion efficiency [Barrie *et al.*, 2001]. All these steps are globally observed:  $DMS_w$ ,  $DMS_{flux}$ , OH, nss- $SO_4$  and CCN, all increase in summer. These couplings are stronger at high latitudes, probably as a consequence of the higher seasonal amplitude of the solar irradiance. However, although the DMS (hemispheric) summer increase is widespread, only in the Southern Hemisphere the estimated biogenic production of CCN from DMS oxidation significantly contributes to the total CCN. In the Northern Hemisphere, which is under very high anthropogenic influence, the biogenic contribution to CCN is minor. Over equatorial to tropical regions, other sources also dominate CCN concentrations and variability owing to the low seasonality of solar irradiance and the heavy inputs of continental aerosols. From a global perspective, therefore, the contribution of biogenic CCN to the total CCN is rather moderate ( $\approx 30\%$ ). However, over remote oceanic regions far from continental inputs (e.g., Southern Ocean, subtropical South

Pacific), CCN seem to be strongly influenced by  $CCN_{bio}$ . In this regard, it is in clean air over marine regions where changes in CCN concentrations may have greater impact on cloud albedo due to the lower droplet concentrations [Platnick and Twomey, 1994; Van Dingenen *et al.*, 1995; Liss *et al.*, 1997]. Over these regions a natural biogeochemical mechanism of climate regulation (as proposed by the CLAW hypothesis) could perfectly be operating, at least on seasonal timescales. It is then plausible that in pre-industrial periods a seasonal “solar radiation dose-DMS-CCN” link was globally important.

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